MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

Sharon Resignation, Cabinet Decision -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has decided to resign from his post although he will continue to serve in the Cabinet as minister without portfolio, IDF radio reported on 11 February. However, in interviews broadcast earlier by the radio, the energy and justice ministers said they understood that Sharon will resign from the Cabinet as well.

Sharon had earlier announced that he would not resign his post despite the Cabinet's decision to fully adopt the Kahan commission's conclusions without distinctions between politicians and the military, Jerusalem radio reported. After Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Cabinet that the inquiry commission's conclusions must be adopted, Sharon was the only minister to dissent from this view by voting against the resolution.

Following the decision to accept the commission's recommendations, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan issued an order of the day carried by ITIM confirming the the IDF will carry out the Cabinet resolution. Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that Prime Minister Begin will choose Ambassador to the United States Moshe Arens to replace Ari'el Sharon as defense minister.

Explosions, Bomb Threats -- While the Cabinet was holding its decisive meeting on the results of the Kahan commission a handgrenade exploded amid a group of Peace Now demonstrators outside the prime minister's office, killing one man and wounding nine others, including the son of Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Jerusalem radio reported. In statements broadcast by Jerusalem television and radio, Begin and Sharon condemned the incident in strong terms. Kakh Movement leader Rabbi Kahane was subsequently arrested in connection with the explosion, IDF radio noted. A man claiming to be a Kakh member had earlier conveyed false bomb threats to the Tel Aviv police, announcing that booby-trapped cars were parked near the Labor Party and Likud headquarters, according to Jerusalem radio and ITIM reports. Rabbi Kahane's followers had announced to Peace Now demonstrators that their demonstration outside Begin's office would be their last demonstration "without a handgrenade," the radio reported.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The Israeli side showed "flexibility" and did not stress its demand for early-warning stations, although it maintained its stance on mutual relations and normalization, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed in a report on the 10 February talks at Qiryat Shemona. The radio indicated that the Israelis have agreed to drop their demand for early-warning stations in return for an agreement to establish observation posts to be supervised by Lebanese, Israeli, and other personnel. Both the Lebanese and Israeli delegations announced at the end of the talks that differences had been narrowed, according to statements broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon and Jerusalem radio. Jerusalem radio also reported that the subcommittee dealing with ending the state of war had reached an agreement. The Israeli delegation leader stressed in a press statement that Israel wants Lebanon to enjoy absolute sovereignty and total independence in all its territory, the radio noted.

"Much more progress has been made in the talks than some people think" and Israel and Lebanon have come to a better understanding of each other's views, Foreign Minister Elie Salim told a Beirut news conference broadcast by Beirut radio. He reaffirmed Lebanon's opposition to early-warning stations and to the presence of a single Israeli soldier on Lebanese territory and stressed that Lebanon will only negotiate partial withdrawals of foreign forces within the framework of a comprehensive agreement for the liberation of all of Lebanon.

Security -- The Progressive Socialist Party and the Phalangist Lebanese Forces signed a new agreement under IDF auspices to consolidate the recent Druze-Christian cease-fire, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio also cited unconfirmed reports of Israeli-Syrian artillery exchanges in the Al-Baruk mountain area.

PLO

The PLO has invited 80 Egyptian parliamentarians from the Egyptian "patriot" forces to attend the forthcoming PNC meeting in Algiers, but it has not invited any Israeli personalities, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum announced in a statement reported by KUNA. The PNC will discuss Palestinian unity, national rights, coming political moves "in accordance with the Fes resolutions," the importance of Arab solidarity and the establishment of a unified PLO military command, he said. The PNC speaker also noted that the PLO Executive Committee may be expanded in size.

The PLO chose Algiers as the venue for the PNC session because it categorically rejects attempts by "some Arab regimes' to control Palestinian affairs and Algeria is eager to maintain Palestinian independence and does not interfere in the PLO's internal affairs, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated at a press conference reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine Radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said Iraqi planes and helicopters inflicted heavy losses on Iranian targets in the Maysan sector, but admitted that an Iraqi fighter plane was shot down. Reporting further Iraqi aircraft losses, an Iranian communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that six Iraqi planes have been downed during the latest Iranian offensive. Other Iranian communiques broadcast by the radio said the Iranians inflicted further blows on the Iraqis, killing or wounding over 2,500 soldiers and destroying more than 40 tanks and personnel carriers. However, the Iraqi communique asserted that the Iranians lost 3,140 dead and 18 tanks on 9 February, as well as further heavy losses in battles since than. Some 1,000 Iranian POW's were transferred to the read, INA reported. Meanwhile, in a revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni mocked Iraqi claims that Iran lost up to 15,000 killed in the latest offensive, contending that this is impossible since Iran only sent 4,000 men into the current battle.

OPEC

"I see no way out of a price reduction, " Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister said in a magazine interview reported by SPA. Expressing optimism that an oil price reduction will expand demand and revive the world economy, Yamani criticized countries that want official prices to remain high in order to sell at a discount.

DAILY REPORT

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AL-KHALIJ INTERVIEWS PFLP'S AHAD AL-YAMANI

GF061400 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Feb 83 p 14

[Interview with Ahmad al-Yamani, alias Abu Mahir, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the PFLP Political Bureau, by unidentified AL-KHALIJ correspondent in Aden -- no date given]

[Text] AL-KHALIJ: Have your current meetings in Aden resulted in an agreement on the political program that will be adopted by the PNC at the end of its meetings which begin in Algiers on 14 February?

Abu Mahir: The PLO considers the Aden statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee and a number of secretary generals a basis for the political statement that will be issued by the PNC at its forthcoming meeting in Algiers. A committee of PLO Executive Committee members has been set up under the chairmanship of the PNC speaker. The committee includes the secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Sqruggle Front [Samir Ghawshah] and the secretary of the Palestinian Liberation Front [Tal'at Ya'qub] since they are not represented in the PLO Executive Committee.

The committee is to draw up details of what was agreed upon in Aden. It has held several meetings in Damascus and defined a number of political points and the stands on these points. It was agreed to hold another meeting in Aden -- and these were the meetings that were held in Aden 25-27 January to review the committee's progress. It was then agreed to hold a meeting of PLO Executive Committee members, secretaries general of Palestinian organizations, and members of the office of the PNC speaker in Algiers on 10 February to review all these topics and draft the political statement that will be issued by the PNC.

One can say that to date there has not been complete agreement on the topics under discussion. There are diverging views on numerous topics under discussion. The issue will be tackled by the Palestinian leadership in the meeting scheduled for 10 February.

Al-KHALIJ: How is the Tripoli statement viewed by the Aden and Algiers meetings? What is its effect on the national unity of the Palestinian factions?

Abu Mahir: We in the PFLP believe that the Tripoli statement represents the view which we have always declared. There is no contradiction between our stand on what was approved in Aden -- and that represents the minimal positions on which the factions of the Palestinian resistance agree -- and between our stand on the points declared in Aden [as published] and which, as I have said, represent our view. We are anxious to establish, strengthen, and preserve Palestinian national unity among the factions of the resistance movement on the basis of an agreed national political program.

AL-KHALIJ: With regard to the forthcoming PNC session, there are views that say that the formula of national unity should be similar to the model adopted in the socialist bloc, where the Soviet system is in the position of leadership and in its orbit revolve the other regimes of the socialist bloc. What is your view?

Abu Mahir: One should not compare the PLO, which is a national liberation movement that comprises a number of factions with different ideologies within the framework of a front, with a socialist bloc country which is a state in the true sense of the word led by one party, the communist party of that country.

There is no multiparty system in these countries; the communist parties in these countries lead the government and the activity of the masses.

As a national front, the PLO should agree on a program. This program cannot be the program of one particular organization. It should be a political program that is the outcome of a dialogue on various topics so that the minimal national position can be agreed upon, a position on which all the factions that constitute the PLO agree. Thus a comparison is totally irrelevant.

AL-KHALIJ: There is another view of the PNC that refers to a government and an opposition -- a majority government opposed only by organizations within the PNC and not within the government, that is, not within the Executive Committee.

Abu Mahir: There is a phased political program and an organizational program, both of which have been approved by past sessions of the PNC. We call for the implementation of these programs, politically and organizationally. Hence we say that national unity should be based on these programs. I have not heard of a view advocating what some have said. At this particular stage we need all efforts to be united to confront the imperialist-reactionary conspiracy among whose aims in the military operation against Lebanon was to destroy the Palestinian revolution, split its forces, and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Therefore, any call similar to that you have mentioned does not serve sound national plans. We must call for the unification of efforts to confront the hostile plot. If such views are being proposed, they are merely personal views that do not represent the true stand of the Palestinian organizations.

AL-KHALIJ: What is the PFLP's view on the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue?

Abu Mahir: We in the PFLP oppose this dialogue. When we in the past adopted a stand on the call for cooperation with Jordan, we had defined our stand in the light of a detailed study of the Jordanian regime and its approach to the Palestinian question and the PLO. Jordan views itself in a state of conflict with the PLO with regard to the representation of the Palestinians. Jordan does not allow any political or organizational activity among the 1.25 million Palestinians in Jordan, the biggest Palestinian gathering outside the occupied territories. Jordan says [to the PLO]: you have no right to work with them, either politically or organizationally. The best proof of this is that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has not been allowed so far to visit any Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan and hold a seminar or rally.

It is true that people come to the PLO office [in Amman], but this is not enough. It is Jordan, and not we, who benefits from the dialogue. Let me give you an example. Prior to these contacts, none of the West Bank notables used to declare their allegiance to Jordan. They always used to say: The PLO is our sole legitimate representative. When the [Jordanian-PLO] contacts began we heard of a petition submitted by a large number of notables from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip calling on Jordan to negotiate [with Israel] so as to -- according to them -- save the land and regain it. Among those who signed the petition were Ilyas Frayj [mayor of Bethlehem] and Rashad ash-Shawwa [former Mayor of Gaza] and others who in the past used to pay lipservice to the PLO.

To say that we carry out these contacts and maintain relations [with Jordan] for the benefit of our masses and people is merely to justify these contacts -- contacts that in our view are based on the Reagan statement.

We in the PFLP say that we must deepen our relationships and form a united national front through which we can be in contact with our masses in the occupied territories.

AL-KHALIJ: In its 1974 session the PNC divided the slogan of a democratic state into stages. It put forward the 10-point program which, among other things, calls for the establishment of a national authority on any territory that is liberated or from which the enemy withdraws. There are now views on the possibility of dividing the slogan of an independent state into stages. There are whispers on the possibility of discussing this matter in the forthcoming PNC session. What is your view?

Abu Mahir: This is one of the topics on which there is political disagreement. We in the PFLP have rejected the Reagan plan when it was announced. We rejected the Fes plan and the so-called Arab peace plan which is based on Reagan's plan. We do not see any possibility for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state through such capitulatory political bargaining. We have already declared our stand at the PNC and in our various statements to the press and in our literature. We said that we advocate the establishment of our authority over any territory which we liberate, and not territory that is given to us -- because in such a case what is required is capitulation and the liquidation of the cause. Just as the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement were throughout a period of 3 months the target of bombardment from the air, sea, and ground to liquidate them physically, what is being proposed now is a number of plans whose aim is to split the Palestinian resistance movement and consequently liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Reagan's statement is one of these lethal weapons intended to serve this scheme. It denies all our historic and inalienable rights: Repatriation, the right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state. Also [it does not recognize] the PLO as the sole legitimate representative. The way would be Jordan and not a state under the leadership of the PLO. It would be a return to the pre-1967 situation.

After his meeting with Reagan, King Husayn was reported to have said a number of things. King Husayn asked Reagan: Will you really implement Security Council Resolution 242? Reagan replied: Perhaps, with some amendments. King Husayn asked: What is your stand on the settlements? Reagan answered: If you agree to enter into negotiations, the building of new settlements will stop. As for the old settlements, the settlers will be given the choice of either remaining in the Jordanian autonomous region or moving to the area of Palestine that was occupied in 1948.

There is no reference to the establishment of a Palestinian state. There are illusions which some people want to plant in the minds of a number of PLO leaders so as to lead them to this path of capitulation.

The Zionist entity has won international recognition since 1948 and given nothing in return. It gained Arab recognition in 1967 when the Arab regimes accepted Resolution 242 and the Zionist entity gave nothing. Now the Zionist entity wants to win Palestinian recognition, the principal weapon of the rightful owners, and will not give anything in return. This is clear through the intransigence of the Zionist entity and its two parties -- both the Ma'arakh [Labor alignment] and the Likud bloc. They consider Palestine as their land and do not intend to cede it. They are annexing the Golan Heights, will they give Palestine back? They are occupying southern Lebanon and insist on staying there and on dividing the waters, will they leave Palestine? Just like that, in order to please Jordan or those Palestinian resistance leaders who accept? They are doing what they are doing in Tabah, which is known to be part of Egyptian territory.

How can you imagine that they will withdraw from Palestine. These are illusions, and we do not share them. As I have said this is one of the issues on which there is disagreement in the Palestinian arena.

AL-KHALIJ: How will the differences between Syria and Fatah be resolved? What was the front's contribution in this regard and are the disputes difficult?

Abu Mahir: We believe in and seek to improve relations between the leaders of Fatah and Syria because we know the importance of good relations and how such good relations reflect on action against the Zionist enemy. Syria is one of four countries that surround our occupied land. Since 1971 Jordan has not agreed to become a field of struggle against the Zionist enemy. Egypt removed itself from the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict upon its approval of the Camp David agreement. Lebanon was invaded and an earthquake took place in it. The resistance movement left southern Lebanon and Beirut and its forces were scattered over more than one country. Thus, out of these four countries, we have nothing before us except Syria.

Due to the importance of geography in continuing the struggle, Syria now constitutes a position that we have to maintain, and this necessarily requires positive relations between the various resistance factions and Syria in order for us to be able to assess all what happened and choose the appropriate military methods to continue the struggle. Thus we had a clear and open stand and developed efforts with the Fatah leadership on the one hand and with the Syrian Government on the other in order to achieve some kind of a relationship and to improve it once it is there. We do our best within the Palestinian framework, the Arab framework, and the international framework through our alliances to see that efforts are made to achieve this goal which we consider to be very important.

As for Syria's stand during the recent war, if we look at the Arab states we find them divided into two categories, a reactionary and conspiring part that was pleased to see the resistance movement receive the blows, and there are Arab countries that are disabled.

The Syrian Army that was in Beirut fought just as the resistance fought. Syria's 85th Brigade did not give up, nor did it leave the battlefield and it was not defeated. The Palestine Liberation Army forces that were under Syrian supervision were also on the frontlines. They too fought side by side with our fighters and carried out their tasks. Also, those battles that we heard about outside Beirut area, and the losses suffered by the Syrian Army, whether the human losses -- which are said to have been 5,000 killed or wounded in the army -- and a similar number of planes and tanks, this means there was fighting but not at the level that could achieve victory on the ground.

Had we been in charge of the plans for the Syrian Army, we would have had another opinion and another method. We would say that part of this army should depart from the traditional military role and wage guerrilla warfare against the enemy. However, it is not right to compare what Syria offered -- although we say that it should have offered more and should have continued the fight -- and other countries that were spectators. Some countries were better than others. Throughout the months of invasion, the PLO continued to call for an Arab summit conference, but the Arab countries did not call for the summit. And as soon as the blow was dealt and in the wake of our exit from Beirut, Reagan's statement was issued and on its basis the summit conference was held.

We regard this to be a basic issue with regard to the importance of national unity. If there is national unity on the basis of a national political program, and if our relations with Syria become sound, we can reach and define more stands.

AL-KHALIJ: Is it possible for sound relations to be established between Syria and the Palestinian revolution in isolation from the concept of containment that is being discussed nowadays? And can these relations exist without influencing the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking?

Abu Mahir: Yes, we are one of the factions that reject the process of containment and we believe in the independence of the Palestinian decision. We say what we want and propose these stands to others and request them to support our struggle. This is the line of the popular front; it was and is still known. In the worst and in the best of all situations, we always said what we believed to be true and to serve the Palestinian question. Hence, if we go back to our correct revolutionary concepts, I say yes, we can and this depends on the method we will work with while benefiting from the long experience of the past years. A revolution cannot become a true revolution if it implements the desires of other regimes.

AL-KHALIJ: What, in your view, are the sound bases for relations between Syria and the PLO?

Abu Mahir: In fact, correcting the relations between Fatah and Syria [sentence incomplete] There are a number of issues. First, there is the political issue. The Palestinian revolution should have a clear stand on all proposed plans; dialogue should take place in view of this clear and frank stand to reach an agreement on a political line. We have to say: This is our defined, clear, and frank stand.

Another issue we should take into consideration is our new situation after the exit from Beirut; I mean the organizational side. It is not permissible to transfer what was going on in Beirut to any place we move to. Rather, we should know that we moved to places where it is impermissible to carry all the problems which were in Beirut. I believe if we take this organizational side and dealings into consideration and behave in a way that harmonizes with our march as a resistance aiming to win and enhance the Arab masses' support, it will not be difficult to proceed in our tasks and consequently achieve what we want the way we want. However, we have to be politically clear in our policy, in the organizational side and in our dealings.

AL-KHALIJ: Can relations with Syria reach the level of complete strategic alliance?

Abu Mahir: Let me say alliance, cooperation, and coordination to be logical in view of the current situation. We cooperate, coordinate, and proceed forward on all issues agreed upon and consequently we implement these issues. As for the difference of opinions, we treat them through continued dialogue and response, knowing that the PNC resolutions call for strategic alliance between Syria and the PLO.

AL-KHALIJ: Where do mediation efforts stand?

Abu Mahir: We are always trying diligently to improve relations. The first point we reached is that we defined our stand on major issues. Contacts have begun and so far they have not achieved the desired goals. No meeting has been held between the subcommittee which sprang from the Executive Committee and the Syrian Government. The Syrians have not formed their committee. However, contacts are being made. They said they would make their decision in view of the PNC resolutions.

AL-KHALIJ: What about the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front? It was absent during the invasion of Lebanon and now there are attempts to revive it.

Abu Mahir: The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front was a political front. The Lebanese war exposed the weakness and slackness of some countries in this front.

However, we will not forget the fact that the countries of this front are different from other Arab countries. We still believe that there should be a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front consisting of national progressive regimes that can carry out its objectives and build its political, military, and economic institutions on the basis of these objectives. We will continue struggling so that this front becomes a real Steadfastness and Confrontation Front against imperialism and Zionism. We will not lose hope in spite of the weakness and slackness of some countries in the front.

AL-KHALIJ INTERVIEWS PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR

GF090610 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 16

[Interview with 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member and PLO official spokesman, in Aden -- date not given]

[Text] On the significance of the PNC meeting, Abu Mayzar said: No doubt the PNC meeting will be held at a time when the situation of the Palestinian cause and of the Arab region is delicate and grave. The PNC meeting will be held at an important and decisive turning point in the history of the Palestinian people and their revolution and of the Arab nation. I say this because the region's fate for many years to come will be determined by the success or failure of the struggle to confront the current challenges -- this struggle which is an indivisible part of the whole Arab struggle movement. The PNC meeting will be held after the resistance's exit from Beirut, after the battles in Lebanon and after a long war launched by Israel to remove the remnant obstacles in the way of the U.S.-Israeli strategy in the region. These obstacles are the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and Syria.

Hence, the significance of the time factor in the PNC meeting. The meeting itself is significant because the discussions and the political statement to be issued will deal with the Palestinian stand on various proposed issues, foremost of which are Reagan's plan, Palestinian-Arab relations, and Palestinian relations with other countries.

AL-KHALIJ: In your view, how will the PNC treat the aforementioned issues?

Abu Mayzar: As for Reagan's plan, in view of the contacts that have been made among the resistance factions to formulate a unified Palestinian stand, I can say that it is rejected and does not constitute a sound or acceptable basis for the solution of the Palestine cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is an overt U.S. attempt to usurp the Palestinian people's firm and national rights, particularly the rights to return, to self-determination, and to an independent state. The plan also is an attempt to liquidate the Palestine cause and our people's rights. It totally abolishes the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people because it calls on Jordan to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people on the future of the Palestine question.

Regarding Palestinian-Arab relations, the most prominent issues which preoccupy the Palestinian mind and which will reflect on the PNC discussions, are the issues of Palestinian-Syrian relations and the need to maintain them on a firm basis in order to continue to confront the annihilatory plots and resist the Israeli occupation.

As for Jordan, there is a general Palestinian stand which confirms the special relations linking the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and considers the establishment of the Palestinian state a basic condition for formulating any confederal relations in the future. In this respect, it is useful to note that Palestinian-Jordanian relations have never been a cause of the Middle East crisis and that those who use these relations as a precondition to settle the Middle East crisis are those Israelis and Americans who call for the Jordanian alternative.

In doing so, they do not mean any good for Jordan or Palestine because the Jordanian option, which the Israelis and the Americans talk about, is the alternative homeland, usurping the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state, and the disregard for the right of the refugees to repatriation by settling them in Jordan, which will distort their fate instead of giving them the right to self-determination.

That is why we warned, why we still warn and why we have repeatedly affirmed that the only way to resolve the Palestine cause is through the Palestinian option, an option which is based on granting the Palestinian people the right to return and to establish their independent state on their national soil, Palestine.

AL-KHALIJ: Will the PNC discuss relations with Egypt?

Abu Mayzar: Yes, this will be discussed on the basis of support for a cooperation with the national movement and forces in Egypt in their struggle against the Camp David policy and agreements. I believe the PNC will confirm its previous resolutions on this issue, particularly since the consultations that have been held with all the resistance factions have proved the need to adhere to the political program endorsed during the last PNC session.

The remaining issue is PLO relations on the international level. Undoubtedly, concentrating on the need to improve the PLO's international relations with the Socialist bloc and the nonaligned group will receive the PNC's attention, together with the means to intensify efforts on the European arena and in U.S. public opinion circles to win more friends and widen the international recognition of our legitimate rights.

AL-KHALIJ: What about the national unity?

Abu Mayzar: The national unity is the central issue and exceeds all other issues in importance. We will not talk about the need for this unity because it is the sharpest weapon for countering hostile plots and for protecting the revolution's existence. For national unity to be effective and achieve the current goals, there must be complete commitment to the political and organizational programs approved by the previous PNC sessions. The unified Palestinian stand is the guarantee for the real national unity. The more the revolution factions are committed to the principles of the Palestinian struggle, the stronger Palestinian national unity will be.

AL-KHALIJ: In view of the current situation, what is the formula for a strong national unity?

Abu Mayzar: Basic principles can be translated in building the national unity through the next PNC session by confirming the political and organizational programs through a political statement that clearly defines the PLO's stand on all the challenges and plans resulting from the Beirut battle on the Arab and international levels. This particularly includes the Reagan plan of liquidation and the attempts being made by the United States and those revolving in its orbit to disregard the unilateral representation of the Palestinian people. The battle is against a liquidating settlement which ignores and usurps our rights to return, to self-determination, and to establish the state -- like the autonomy rule agreement, Reagan plan, Camp David, etc. The battle is also to protect the unilateral representation of the Palestinian people. These are the two central issues in the Palestinian struggle in the next stage.

AL-KHALIJ: Do you have a certain view of the structure of the new executive committee to be formed by the PNC?

Abu Mayzar: There is a firm view based on the fact that the next executive committee should reflect the will of all the resistance factions and Palestinian forces in leading the two aforementioned central battles, armed with the strongest relations with fraternal Syria -- the partner in the same trench -- and with all forces of Arab steadfastness and international liberation [movements].

AL-KHALIJ: Some Palestinians believe in the possibility of achieving the Palestinian state in stages, while others believe that full autonomy is a viable stage for an independent state. What is your comment?

Abu Mayzar: When we called for a step-by-step struggle to achieve the strategic goal, we meant the demarcations between this stage and that stage of liquidation. These demarcations are necessary for a "step by step" policy and if they are tampered with tactics become a strategy and disregard for rights becomes a point of view.

The independent Palestinian state means the Palestinian people's freedom, independence, and sovereignty. The issue of freedom is indivisible. That is why those who call for a step-by-step state -- if there are such people and if they call for such a thing -- are rendering free services to the enemies of the Palestinian people's firm rights.

AL-KHALIJ: During the past 2 months, the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has been a disputed subject on the Palestinian and Arab levels. There were reports that the dialogue was based on discussing the U.S. proposal regarding negotiations with Israel, which stems from the Reagan plan and is based on Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords: What is your personal opinion on the dialogue, its necessity and future?

Abu Mayzar: There has been no official Palestinian decision issued by any faction in the PLO that demands a Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue on the basis of what was said in the reports you mentioned. None of the reports submitted to the Executive Committee regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations, included anything regarding the establishment of a settlement on the basis of Reagan's plan or a joint delegation.

It is necessary to point out that all the factions of the resistance, including Fatah, reject the Reagan plan for the following reasons:

A. This plan is a clear attempt to usurp the rights to return and to self-determination, and the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state.

B. It is a dangerous attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause and disregard the PLO.

C. The plan in itself affirms the hostile U.S. stance toward the Palestinian and Arab right because it adopts the Israeli concept of peace, which is based on three No's: "No Palestinian state," "No PLO," and "No withdrawal" from the occupied Arab Palestinian territories. It also insists on total normalization and the establishment of diplomatic relations and imposes on the Arabs to recognize recognition of the three Israeli limits: "Political, economic, and military." Reagan's plan was explained by Reagan himself when he met with six members of the seven-member committee led by King Hassan II. He said: "You have to declare your readiness to recognize Israel's right to existence and sovereignty and negotiate with it because without direct negotiations, there will be no progress."

Reagan also said: "Any insistence on the PLO's existence means the cessation of U.S. efforts for peace. He also said: "In this period it is required to strongly support King Husayn's negotiations with Israel, so he will know that he is backed by all the members of the Arab committee. Then Secretary of State Shultz affirmed to the seven-member (six member) committee that abidance by the pricniple of establishing a Palestinian state puts an end to any stability in the region.

D. Finally, the Palestinians do not accept the Reagan plan because it attempts to involve certain Arabs in direct individual negotiations to realize autonomy under Israeli military domination and thus, deals with the conflict by dividing the Arabs cause and stance.

For all these reasons the PLO opposes the U.S. project known as Reagan plan.

AL-KHALIJ: What are the similarities and differences between the Fes and Reagan plans?

Abu Mayzar: In my opinion, the Fes summit affirmation of the firm Palestinian national rights to land, self-determination, and an independent state and the PLO's sole legitimate representation of the Palestinian people, fully contradicts with the Reagan plan. We the "PLO" do not regard the Fes resolutions as either contradictory or similar to the Reagan plan, but understand it on the basis of the aims of our national struggle to fight the Zionist enemy and use every political and military means to restore our lands and usurped rights.

AL-KHALIJ: Is there any chance of the Fes plan being implemented?

Abu Mayzar: The Fes plan is not a Palestinian choice, but is an Arab decision that reflects the power balance in the Arab world. We struggled to ensure that this decision was not made at the expense of our firm rights and that it affirmed the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Fes decision contradicted the Reagan plan and we must not forget that it lacks the instrument of execution, which was not mentioned in the decisions. Thus, we are struggling against all attempts to override our firm rights.

AL-KHALIJ: How can the Fes plan be executed?

Abu Mayzar: It can be executed through an Arab policy of pressure on the-U.S. interests so that the United States will feel it cannot reconcile the safety of its interests with its support and encouragement to Israeli aggression and occupation. In light of the unlimited U.S. support to Israel, the friendship bonds between the Arab and Socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, should be strengthened.

AL-KHALIJ: What is required on a Palestinian level to execute the Fes plan?

Abu Mayzar: The Palestinian revolution will not remain silent on any Arab attempt to ignore the Palestinian people's firm rights or any attempt against the Palestinian representation through the PLO; that is, the PLO will confront any negotiations held by any Arab country on the basis of the Reagan plan.

AL-KHALIJ: Syria is a geographical and historic fact. During our meetings with various Palestinian faction representatives in Aden we did not find anyone who did not appreciate the importance of Syrian geography and history on a Palestinian level. In your view, how can the current rift between Fatah and the Syrian Government be eliminated?

Abu Mayzar: In light of the resolutions of the PNC, which will meet on 14 February, a serious effort should be made to hold a clear, sincere, and constructive dialogue in order to reach to an understanding and to achieve the aspirations of all the nationalist Palestinians regarding the firm struggle and pan-Arab and fateful bonds with Syria -- which, along with the Palestinian revolution, is the first confrontation front against the Zionist enemy -- in defense of the Arab masses' issues.

I should point out here that the Camp David sides and the enemies of the PLO and Syria are trying to widen the Palestinian-Syrian differences and every person should defeat those attempts to widen differences.

AL-KHALIJ: In your view, as a member of the Palestinian committee which stems from the Executive Committee and the PNC leadership to discuss the Palestinian-Syrian relations, which is the nature of the Syrian stand? Why didn't Syria form a committee similar to the Palestinian committee to discuss the relations?

Abu Mayzar: First, the talks between the Palestinian and Syrian sides have not begun. At this phase, the Palestinian side is working to formulate a joint Palestinian stand to hold a dialogue with the Syrian side. When we complete our mission the dialogue will begin. The Syrians have informed us that they will form their delegation as soon as we advise them that we have formulated a united Palestinian stand. No, doubt, the PNC meeting will contribute to formulating this tand in the light of which we hope the dialogue will begin.

AL-KHALIJ: In a previous statement you said the visit of 'Arafat and the Palestinian delegation to Moscow achieved results of extreme importance. Is it possible to explain some of those results?

Abu Mayzar: No doubt that visit of the Exceutive Committee delegation under the chairmanship of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Moscow, and its talks with the Soviet leaders under the chairmanship of Andropov at these critical times in the world and the region, makes the visit significant, particularly because these were the second talks held with the Soviet leaders since Andropov's assumption of power. The first talks were held wity PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the talks affirmed the Soviet Union's principled and firm stance toward the Palestinian issue and the firm rights of the Palestinian people. The Soviet leaders informed the Palestinian delegation of the Soviet Union's intent to provide support and aid to the PLO in its just struggle to achieve its legitimate goals.

The talks were long and many and dealt with all factors of the situation in the Middle East and with the intrnational situation.

AL-KHALIJ: What is the Soviet stance on the events in the region?

Abu Mayzar: During their talks with the Palestinian delegation, the Soviet leaders stressed, as they previously stressed to the seven-member committee, the threat of the Reagan plan and noted that the Soviet Union supports the current Arab stand to achieve a total and unconditional withdrawal from all the Arab occupied territories and the total Palestinian rights. The statement issued on the results of the talks reflects the depth of our friendship and relations with the friendly Soviet Union.

FATAH DELEGATION TO VISIT MOSCOW IN MAY 83

JN081423 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Rabat, 8 Feb (INA) -- Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the PNC has stated that a delegation representing the Fatah movement will visit Moscow in May 1983. In a statement to INA in Rabat, Al-Hasan said that the Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow falls within the annual visits of the movement to the USSR. He also said that, during the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Soviet officials on means of promoting the Palestinian-Soviet relations.

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES 10 FEB

JN101753 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1721 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Communique No 996 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The more the rulers in Qom and Tehran persist on pursuing their expansionist, evil stands and carrying out aggression against solid and cherished Iraq and its struggler people, the more determined they will find the brave men of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah lying in wait for them; confronting their ill-fated land, air and sea adventures; wrecking their arrogance and pride; and inflicting further material and human losses on their troops.

The following are the results of the war operations:

1. The known enemy losses sustained by its troops during the battles that raged on 9 February, as reported by our military Communique No 993 of 9 February, amounted to 3,140 dead; a huge number of wounded and prisoners; and 18 tanks, 14 armored personnel carriers, 6 excavators, and 34 vehicles destroyed; and a large quantity of arms and various types of hardware seized. As for the known enemy losses during the battles that raged last night and this morning as reported in our military Communiques Nos 994 and 995, these will be announced later when the counting operation is completed.

2. Our bold fighter planes today attacked enemy positions, troop concentrations and units in the Ash-Shib region in the Maysan operational sector, scoring direct and very effective hits and inflicting grave losses in life and equipment. Dense flames and clouds of smoke were seen bellowing from the destroyed enemy positions and targets. All of our fighter planes returned safely to base except for one plane which fell in enemy territory. The pilot of the plane, 1st Lieutenant 'Abd as-Salam 'Abbas, was seen bailing out. We hold the Iranian side responsible for his safety.

3. Our helicopters today discharged severe and effective strikes against the enemy's units and fleeing remnants in the Ash-Shib region in the Maysan operational sector, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment. The observed losses amounted to the destruction of 6 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 vehicle, 1 106-mm gun, and 16 troops concentrations. All of our brave helicopters returned safely to base.

4. A force of our forward units raided an enemy concentration opposite their units in the central operational sector, killing 14, wounding a number of others, and destroying 3 positions and 1 hardware stockpile.

5. Two were killed in the northern sector.

6. Four infantry positions, one vehicle, and one medium-range machinegun were destroyed in the area east of Basra.

7. Using artillery, the criminal Khomeyniite regime today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, damaging a number of civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 February 1983

VOL REPORTS ISRAELI 'FLEXIBILITY' IN TALKS

NC102001 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Acceptable progress was achieved during the 14th round of the tripartite negotiations at Qiryat Shemona today, according to the final statement that was issued at the end of the round. The Israeli side showed flexibility. General Cooley presented maps for the plan on withdrawals from Lebanon. Diplomatic quarters expect some positive results in light of the U.S. efforts around which the mission of U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib revolves.

The question on the establishment of early warning stations will be substituted by the establishment of observation points which will be supervised by Lebanese and Israeli personnel and UN observers or by Lebanese, American, and Israeli personnel.

It was noticed today that the Israeli side showed flexibility in its stand. It did not stress the demand for early warning stations. However, it maintained its stance vis-a-vis mutual relations and normalization, which Lebanon refuses. The Voice of Lebanon team observed that General Tamir, a close associate of Mr Sharon, did not attend today's meetings.

What is significant in the discussions is that General Cooley, an expert in Israeli military and strategic affairs, presented maps for the plan on the withdrawals from Lebanon.

Statement Indicates 'Progress'

NC101545 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The 14th round of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations ended in Qiryat Shemona by issuing a final statement that indicates progress was made during today's meetings. We will now hear this statement, which was read by Major Tarabay on the Lebanese side:

[Begin recording] Following today's plenary session, the subcommittees dealing with the framework of mutual relations, withdrawals and ending the state of war convened. The discussions were held in a constructive and intensive way. The subcommittees studied a number of the draft provisions. The differences on some subjects were narrowed. The questions discussed included those pertaining to the framework of mutual relations, the text of the introduction of the general agreement, security arrangements and the future withdrawals program. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 14 February 1983. Thank you. [end recording]

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CITED ON HABIB PLAN 10 FEB

NC101352 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Diplomatic sources today disclosed the proposals which U.S. envoy Philip Habib has brought with him. The proposals can be summed up as follows:

1. A program for the Lebanese Army's entry into the mountain area.

2. An increase in the number of Marines now operating within the framework of the multinational forces to support the Lebanese Army in the mountain area and to take over the Damascus international highway.

It has been learned from these sources that Habib has brought an alternative plan for translating the aforementioned points [into action]. This plan includes:

On the Israeli side:

1. Withdrawal from the international road to the areas of 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf.
2. Withdrawal from the Damascus highway to Al-Awwali.
3. Withdrawal from Al-Awwali to the international borders.

With regard to the Syrian Army:

1. The first phase begins with withdrawing from Hammanah, handing over the barracks to the Lebanese Army and leaving the Damascus road.
2. The second phase envisages withdrawal from Al-Matn to Al-Biqa'.
3. Withdrawal to the international borders.

As for the Palestinians, there is nothing that affects them in the first phase -- that is, military withdrawal -- because they do not have any forces in the area from which the Israelis and the Syrians are to withdraw. As far as the Palestinians are concerned, the phase will be handing over the captives and bodies. The second phase will be withdrawal from Al-Biqa' and the north. In the third phase, complete withdrawal will be effected. In the program, the entry of the Labanese Army into Tripoli is mentioned in the second and third phases.

SALIM MEETS U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS

NC101142 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Dr Elie Salim will hold a news conference in Sursuq Museum today for the local information media representatives, at which time he will discuss the latest developments in the tripartite negitations and Lebanese diplomatic activity in this respect.

Minister Salim met last night with former President Camille Sham'un in his residence. The talks dealt with the current Lebanese situation. Minister Salim met before that with a U.S. congressional delegation which is studying the situation of the U.S. contingent of the multinational force and financial affairs relating to the contingent within the framework of the U.S.-Lebanese relations. Minister Salim then met with another delegation led by Senator Quayle from Indiana accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Robert Dillon.

After the meeting, Minister Salim outlined the nature of the delegation's visit to Lebanon and said that the delegation is currently touring countries in the Middle East, including Lebanon, Israel and Egypt, to acquaint itself with developments in the area and the U.S. commitments to them. Minister Salim said that he briefed the delegation on Lebanon's relations with the tripartite negotiations and the U.S. role in these negotiations stressing the role of U.S. President Reagan in the negotiations and in the Lebanese situation. Salim has also visited Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din in the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, where a meeting was held with some deputies of the community, at which the current tripartite negotiations were discussed. During the visit, Minister Salim explained the state's stand regarding these negotiations. He heard the position of his eminence and the deputies and affirmed to them that the state will not be lenient on anything at the expense of the south.

SHARON'S PROPOSAL AT CABINET SESSION REPORTED

TA102111 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2036 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Report by political correspondent Yoram Ronen in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem -- live]

[Text] The Cabinet session ended a few minutes ago, and 16 ministers voted in favor of the resolution stating that it is necessary to implement and adopt all the recommendations included in the commission of inquiry's report that probed the events in Sabra and Shatila. Only the defense minister voted against this resolution. He said that he will no longer participate in Cabinet sessions, but the ministers found it difficult to comprehend whether this was an announcement of resignation by the defense minister or if he would only refrain from participating in Cabinet sessions. The defense minister later told his associates that at this stage, he is not resigning from the Cabinet and remains a Cabinet member. He suggested an alternative proposal, namely that the Cabinet appoint a committee that would investigate the Kahan commission report, all its findings, and particularly the recommendations, some of which he claimed were particularly grave.

The defense minister said one cannot go on with a business as usual attitude after having seen the recommendations of the commission of inquiry, and they should be examined once again. He did not specify whether he wanted a ministerial committee to investigate the Kahan commission report, or whether it should be another forum. To repeat, 16 ministers -- in fact all the Cabinet -- voted against the defense minister and in favor of realizing and implementing the Kahan commission report. Only Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon voted against this proposal, and it is not yet clear whether or not he is resigning his office.

After the Cabinet session, the defense minister talked to Prime Minister Begin, and ministers who already managed to leave the Cabinet session have said they regret the defense minister's remarks and that things went that far. We asked the ministers whether the handgrenade incident here affected in some way the Cabinet deliberations, and they all said they heard a report on the horrible incident but the actual deliberations in the Cabinet were not at all affected by the incident, and the result and conclusion reached by the Cabinet was the same as if the terrible incident today had not occurred.

At this stage, we are waiting for Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to possibly make a clarifying statement on what he said at the Cabinet and maybe even say something about his plans for the future. Right now, I am returning the broadcast from the prime minister's office to the studio.

CABINET SECRETARY READS CABINET RESOLUTIONS

TA102024 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2016 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The Cabinet session ended just now after more than 5 hours with the incident where the handgrenade was thrown opposite the office overshadowing its deliberations. Our correspondent Gil'ad Mishori is there.

[Mishori -- live] The Cabinet session ended really just this minute, and Dan Meridor, the Cabinet secretary, issued a statement: The television crews from all over the world are awaiting the announcement by the Cabinet secretary. He came down unannounced, and here is his announcement:

[Meridor -- live] The Cabinet today, in a special third session, concluded the debate on the commission of inquiry's report. With a majority of 16 against 1, the Cabinet decided to adopt the commission of inquiry's recommendations as included in the report.

I will also repeat this in English.

[Meridor -- in English] In a special meeting of the Cabinet today, the Cabinet concluded its discussions regarding the report of the Kahan commission. The Cabinet decided to accept the recommendations of the inquiry commission. The resolution was adopted by a 16-vote against 1. Thank you.

[Indistinct question in English in the background]

[Meridor -- in Hebrew] Thank you very much. I will add nothing.

[Unidentified correspondent -- in English] Tell us more, tell us more. Is Sharon going to resign?

[Mishori] The Cabinet secretary refused to comply with the pleadings of the reporters, even their demands, which we can hear in any conceivable language. He declined disclosing any more details on what took place at the session, on the result of the vote. Thus we do not know which ministers of those 16 voted in favor of adopting the report recommendations and who was the one who opposed it, or whether Minister Sharon will resign of his own free will, or be forced to resign following the Cabinet resolution.

Dan Meridor came down unannounced and he is also walking away very swiftly, just as he came. At this point, we are returning the broadcast to the studio.

SHARON RESIGNS AS DEFENSE MINISTER 11 FEBRUARY

TA110704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Ari'el Sharon has resigned from the post of defense minister. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that this morning Sharon agreed with the prime minister to hand over to him the defense portfolio. He is ending his post on Monday, 14 February. At the beginning of the week, the outgoing minister will meet with the General Staff and take his leave of the Defense Ministry staff. His aides are now busy collecting his personal papers. Our correspondent emphasizes that for the moment, Sharon will continue to be a minister in the Cabinet and he does not intend to resign from it.

Further Details

TA110801 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0929 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] We will go over to our studio in Jerusalem where our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel is waiting with first details about the report that the defense minister has resigned from his post.

[Frankel -- live] First, we have confirmation of the report that Ari'el Sharon has indeed decided to resign from his post, which was also urged by the defense minister's adviser after last night's Cabinet session. This is at least what the minister told his confidants right after the session. This morning, the prime minister knew of his decision to leave the post of defense minister but not to resign from the Cabinet. Sharon's aides claim that there is no rift between the defense minister and Menahem Begin even in periods of dispute. They say they have kept close and continuous links.

As for Sharon's political future, he will apparently continue to serve in the Cabinet, apparently as minister without portfolio. He does not intend for the moment to resign from the party and coalition framework. On Sunday, 13 February, the Cabinet will apparently decide to give the prime minister the defense portfolio for an interim period. On Monday, 14 February, the defense minister has set an agenda of taking his leave of the senior IDF officers, and the general staff headquarters.

In less than an hour, let us add, the Likud faction is to meet in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. As far as is known, the defense minister will not appear in this framework. Let us also note that for the moment, there has been no reaction from the prime minister's office. Right now, Menahem Begin is scheduled to meet with the defense minister of Zaire. These, are the details we have for now.

BEGIN TO TAKE DEFENSE SPOT FOR SHORT TIME

TA111211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to the United States is the prime minister's candidate for the post of defense minister. On Sunday, 13 February, the Cabinet will approve the transfer of the defense portfolio to Menahem Begin, but according to his confidants, he intends to hold the portfolio for the shortest possible time. The next day the matter will be brought to the Knesset for approval.

Arens Preferred for Defense

TA111009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the prime minister's candidate for the post of defense minister instead of Ari'el Sharon is the ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens.

EYTAN TOLD NOT TO CHANGE TOP RANKS IN MILITARY

TA110642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister has instructed the chief of staff to wait for now and not make changes in the military's top rank until he is directed otherwise. The chief of staff, the head of the IDF intelligence branch, and the chief officer of the airborne troops and infantry intend to conduct a normal day's work. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Tal -- live or recorded] After last night's Cabinet session, the chief of staff asked the prime minister how he should act, how he should implement the decision made to adopt the commission's conclusions, how, for example, to deal with appointments. Menahem Begin told him: Wait, do not do anything for now. It is expected, then, that today the chief of staff will conduct a normal day's routine to the extent possible. It is also expected that he will speak with the head of the intelligence branch in the General Staff, General Sagi, and with the chief officer of the airborne troops and infantry, Colonel Yaron. Following the directives from the prime minister, it cannot be assumed that General Eytan will agree to Sagi or Yaron acting differently from him, even if they are asked to do so.

The prime minister is faced with a complicated problem: The defense minister told him specifically that he did not intend to resign, so he will have to dismiss Sharon and he does not want to do this. This situation is also complicated for the IDF senior command; where there is now a fuzziness about work procedures. The defense minister has, in fact, concluded [si'em] his post and it is not clear to whom reports should be given about developments. To date, reports have been given to the defense minister; now it is not clear whether they should be given directly to Sharon or to Begin.

Senior officers with whom we spoke during the night say that the Cabinet decision to adopt the commission's findings was unavoidable. One senior officer told me that the decision had been made 3 days later.

Otherwise, he said, had the defense minister resigned at his own initiative immediately after the Sabra and Shatila events, an inquiry commission might not have been established at all and the matter of learning lessons in the IDF would have been concluded internally within the army with a weaker blow dealt to the officers. Thus, he said, Sharon is ending his post and taking another three officers with him. Another officer told me: The Cabinet's decision was to be expected; I regret the way in which it was made and the delays, but there was no alternative.

One of the scenarios we heard during the night was that Chief of Staff Eytan will be asked to end his term in office and will not leave before April. In an order of the day issued during the night; the chief of staff told the IDF soldiers: At this time, we must stand up to the challenges facing us; the IDF will prove that it has the strength to stand up to the criticism and the drawing of distressing conclusions following from it. The IDF, the chief of staff said, will learn the lessons required from the inquiry commission's conclusions; the military echelons will fulfil the Cabinet's decisions as is customary in a correct democratic regime. That is what he said. One of the demands we have been hearing over the last few days, a demand running through almost all the conversations with IDF figures, is the demand that in any event Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi and Col 'Amos Yaron should continue to serve in the IDF. Both the head of the IDF intelligence branch and the chief officer of the airborne troops and infantry still have something to contribute to Israel's security, they say.

Eytan Order of Day

TA102332 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2300 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 10 Feb (ITIM) -- Today, after midnight, the chief of staff issued a special order of the day in which he announced that the IDF would carry out the Cabinet's resolution which adopted all the conclusions the commission reached, including those pertaining to the military echelons.

The order of the day says:

Soldiers and commanders, on 9 February 1983, the conclusions reached by the commission appointed to investigate the events in the Beirut refugee camps were published. The commission was appointed by the Cabinet to probe all the facts and elements connected with the horrendous deeds perpetrated by a unit belonging to the Lebanese forces against the civilian population in the Sabra and Shatila camps. The murder of innocent people is the worst crime, it follows from the precept "thou shalt not kill," which has been the guideline of the Jewish people throughout its existence, and has been the precept on which all generations of the Jewish people have been brought up.

Our moral values are what aroused in us the feeling of responsibility and the resolve not to ignore the massacre that took place near us. The commission of inquiry was established on the fundamental values of democracy in Israel. In its conclusions, the commission rules, unequivocally, that no direct responsibility lies with Israel or on those who acted on its behalf in this respect. Nonetheless, the commission places indirect responsibility on senior civilian and military elements. The Cabinet decided to adopt the commission of inquiry's resolutions. The military echelon will carry out the Cabinet resolution, as is the practice in a normal proper democratic regime. The IDF will draw the lessons resulting from the conclusions of the commission of inquiry.

Soldiers and commanders, in the Peace for Galilee campaign, the IDF showed its excellent operation capability and its fighters' moral strength. At this moment, we must face the challenges placed before us. The IDF will prove that it can withstand the criticism and the painful resultant conclusions. The sensibility and responsibility of commanders in the IDF is judged by commendable moral standards unparalleled in any other army. It is their light that will continue to shine on the road on which we would continue to educate and train generations of soldiers and commanders."

Signed, Refa'el Eytan, lieutenant general, chief of staff.

The order of the day has been transmitted by the IDF spokesman.

SHINUY TO SUBMIT MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE

TA110841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] The Shinuy faction is to submit a motion of no-confidence in the government in view of the decision not to dismiss Ari'el Sharon from the Cabinet. The motion will almost certainly be submitted on Suday, 13 February. The Shinuy faction says that the decision not to dismiss Sharon from the Cabinet means not accepting the recommendations and findings of the inquiry commission as they were written, and this is a way to get out of the commission's report. The Shinuy faction, then, is submitting a motion of no-confidence in the government on Sunday.

DETAILS ON GRENADE INCIDENT, BURG'S SON

TA102231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] One man was killed in the explosion during the Peace Now demonstration, and nine were wounded, one of them seriously. After the Cabinet session, Minister Burg left for the hospital to visit his son, Avraham, who was slightly injured by the explosion of the handgrenade during the demonstration. The person who was seriously wounded has been hospitalized at the Sha'are Zedeq hospital and is currently in the operating room. Some of the wounded may be discharged tonight.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports from the Hadassah Hospital at 'Ein Kerem that three people who were slightly injured are hospitalized there.

Kahane 'Summoned' by Police

TA111118 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1110 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Kakh leader Rabbi Kahane was summoned [zuman] a short while ago for questioning by the police in connection with the throwing of the handgrenade at Peace Now demonstrators in Jerusalem last night. During his interrogation, Kahane was asked, among other things, to disclose the names of all the Kakh movement members who participated yesterday in the demonstration opposite the prime minister's office. Two policemen came to the Kakh movement offices in central Jerusalem and asked Mr Kahane to join them for questioning.

Begin Statement

TA102115 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2055 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister is asking his supporters on the other side of the fence to be quiet. The prime minister is accompanied by his adviser on communications affairs. He is withdrawing from the journalists, and the prime minister asks his adviser: What are they shouting, referring to this supporters who are shouting Begin, Begin, king of Israel. He has asked that they be quiet. He will presently make a statement.

[Begin -- live] A shocking and horrible disaster occurred while we were sitting in the Cabinet and discussing a matter most important for the nation of Israel. Immediately messengers were sent to find out what happened. Following questions, it emerged that a terrible thing had happened. A young man was killed and three others were wounded. The heart cries for the young man who was thus murdered. We wish a speedy recovery to the wounded and we share in the loss of the bereaved family. It is self-evident that no one knows who perpetrated this crime, and we must not -- without a thorough investigation and examination by all the state institutions -- cast accusations in any direction. An I am sure that the police will investigate thoroughly and will find the criminal or criminals. I call on the public to be calm. A serious controversy is now taking place in the nation, but we are free citizens in a democratic country. We must not follow this cursed path of violence. We must not. Therefore, I call on all the citizens, regardless of their conception or party, that we all work toward the love of Israel and the maintenance of peace in our nation. I hope that this call will fall on attentive ears.

[Reporters call out questions on Sharon's fate but Prime Minster Begin turns and walks off]

Burg Comments

TA101955 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg has approached the reporters near the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, and we are transferring the broadcast to our correspondent there, Yoram Ronen:

[Ronen -- live] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg has now descended from the Cabinet session.

[Question] Mr Interior Minister, what could you tell us about the incident involving the hurling of the handgrenade here?

[Answer] This is an extraordinary act. One person was killed, two were seriously wounded, three were slightly injured including a police officer and a policeman. Any differences we have been voicing upstairs, in the Cabinet meeting room didn't concern the explosion; that matter constitutes a warning signal, one of the gravest we could ever envision. If there are arguments, these are arguments between brothers, and it would be a tragic paradox if while an argument is underway over a report by a commission over what happened in a refugee camp north of our border should result in victims here. Such a thing is indescribable and unacceptable. We appointed a special team, immediately, to start an intensive investigation at once. We are considering possibly banning the holding of demonstrations here in the vicinity of the prime ministers' office and near him personally.

[Question] Dr Burg, how did the prime minister react, how did the ministers react upon hearing this awful news about the terrorist act?

[Answer] It is difficult to give a psychological account, but the feelings are both of shock and of very deep sorrow.

[Question] Will the Cabinet now continue its deliberations according to schedule?

[Answer] There may be some people, although not necessarily upstairs, but among the people, who think that the fact that we are continuing the deliberations and not reaching a decision only serves to give excuse to those who want to heat up the atmosphere. [sentence as heard]

[Question] You mean that the Cabinet will not continue its debate of the commission of inquiry's report?

[Answer] All the signs indicate that the debate will continue, and may even possibly end.

[Question] Are we to expect a bitter argument?

[Answer] It is not to be expected; it already occurred. [laughter in the background]

[Question] Is it about to end?

[Answer] This will be hard to say.

[Question] Do you think the Cabinet will decide to adopt the Kahan commission's report this evening.

[Answer] This is possible, because after all, only three alternatives exist: either to accept all the recommendations, or to accept none, or to accept them selectively. This describes precisely the range of arguments.

[Ronen] Dr Burg thank you very much.

U.S.-LEBANON SAID TO PROPOSE WITHDRAWAL PLAN

TA111243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] The United States and Lebanon have reportedly proposed a 10-week timetable for a phased withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Lebanese radio stations said the withdrawal would be policed by 10,000 peace-keeping troops from the United States, France, Italy, and Britain. The new plan consists of a three-stage withdrawal process. The first phase would be a disengagement of forces along the Beirut-Damascus highway and this would be followed by a two-stage withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon within 10 weeks of the signing of the agreement. The Lebanese radio stations reported that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib was the architect of the new plan and that it had been accepted by the Lebanese Government.

ISRAEL-LEBANON NEGOTIATIONS END 10 FEBRUARY

TA101546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1520 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The talks between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations ended a few minutes ago in Qiryat Shemona. Let us go over to our correspondent Hayim Hecht there:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, opened the deliberations this morning, expressing the hope that the latest events in Israel would not affect the talks. Antoine Fattal, the head of the Lebanese delegation, said: I second Mr Kimche's hope, and suggest that we launch the deliberations at once.

Before the subcommittees began their discussions, Kimche wanted to make yet another point clear. He emphasized then that Israel does not at all want to harm Lebanon's sovereignty over all of its 10,452 square km. Immediately afterwards, the subcommittees convened, and the specialists today busied themselves with formulating conclusions [sikumim], and the joint communique issued by the Israeli delegation spokesman, Yosi 'Amihud, said -- almost as usual -- that progress had been made:

['Amihud] The delegations worked intensively and in a constructive atmosphere to advance understanding and agreement and examined various phrasings regarding the issues the committees are discussing. The gaps in the phrasing have been closed somewhat.

[Hecht] The work on formulating a preamble to the agreement [haskem] began today. The committee that discussed the legal aspects of the termination of the state of war actually concluded its deliberations and, for the first time, a debate was held by the military committee on the process of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanese soil.

The delegations will hold their next meeting next Monday in Khaldah.

Further Details

TA102040 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Report from Qiryat Shemona by Moti 'Eden -- videotaped]

[Excerpt] In the two subcmmittees, the military and political ones, there was some progress. The subcommittee on the framework of realtions between the two countries already formulated this afternoon the agreement concerning the liaison offices in the two countries.

Early-Warning Stations Report

TA101914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The Christian radio station, the Voice of Lebanon has reported that in today's talks in Qiryat Shemona, Israel has given up on its demand [drishata] to set up early-warning stations inside Lebanese territory as part of an arrangement [hesder] for the withdrawal of the forces.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the broadcast said that the parties had accepted a compromise saying that observation posts will be set up inside Lebanon, which will be jointly manned by Lebanese, multinational force, and Israeli soldiers. The broadcast also said that Lebanon did not make any concessions to Israel today regarding the normalization.

'TERRORISTS' IN AL-BIQA' RECEIVE T-54 TANKS

TA092130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The terrorists in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' have received 15 Soviet-made T-54 tanks. Some of the tanks were seen near the town of Zahlah, and they are being operated by terrorists who trained in PLO camps in Syria.

TOURIST TERMINAL AT RAFAH CROSSING POINT

TA101431 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1325 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Rafah, 10 Feb (ITIM) -- A Tourism Ministry terminal has recently been installed at the border terminal between Israel and Egypt at Rafah, in the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, which serves as a regular border-crossing point for all intents and purposes.

An English-speaking employee will be found there most of the day, and she will have on hand informational brochures in a number of languages on the tourist sites in Israel, on the country itself, and on recreational possibilities. At the first stage, the Rafah Terminal Information Bureau will be subordinate to the Beersheba branch of the Tourism Ministry.

The terminal has been built in the incoming lane for tourists from Egypt, so everyone who comes to Israel by land will see it as well as the material it offers.

ENTENTE COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNIQUE 9 FEB

AB100958 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Communique issued following meeting of Entente Council in Kara, Togo, on 8 and 9 February]

[Text] Within the framework of their periodic consultations, the heads of state of the Entente Council held an informal meeting in Kara, Republic of Togo, 8 and 9 February 1983 presided over by His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin and current chairman of the Entente Council. Participating in the meeting in addition to the current chairman were His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of Ivory Coast; His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] and president of the Republic of Togo, who hosted the summit; His Excellency General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Miltiary Council and head of state of Niger; and His Excellency Major Dr Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, chairman of the People's Salvation Council and head of state of Upper Volta.

The heads of state conducted a wide-ranging review of current burning issues both on the international and African scenes, and more especially concerning the West African subregion. In this context they expressed concern about the serious world economic crisis, the effects of which their respective countries are cruelly suffering from, and pledged to unite their efforts to strengthen cooperation with a view to consistently fighting in a spirit of growing solidarity against these phenomena which seriously hamper their development programs. They expressed concern over the current difficulties faced by the OAU and the prevailing situation in southern Africa, especially in Namibia. They reaffirmed their determination to strive for the total decolonization of Africa and to safeguard the unity and cohesion of the continent.

After hearing the reports of the foreign ministers of Benin, Niger, and Togo on the dramatic and complex situation resulting from the expulsion of millions of foreign nationals from Nigeria, the heads of state of the Entente Council noted with regret that thousands of these deportees are nationals from Entente Council countries and other member countries of ECOWAS. In view of the magnitude and consequences of this expulsion, they considered that African fraternity and solidarity should have prevailed, that the African states affected should have been notified in advance so they could organize the reception of their nationals beforehand. They expressed the solidarity of the Entente Council for the deportees, and pledged to give aid and assistance to the correct solution of problems posed by the reception of the deportees of member countries.

To this effect, they appealed for international solidarity to strengthen the Entente Council's action in this respect. They appealed for the understanding of all ECOWAS member countries so as to consolidate unity and safeguard good understanding in the subregion.

In this spirit, they asked His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou, current chairman of the Entente Council, to go to Lagos in his capacity as current chairman of ECOWAS to collect the necessary information from the Nigerian head of state in order to enable the heads of state of member countries to have better insight into the situation in the interest of understanding and confidence in the subregion.

This informal meeting of heads of state of the Entente Council, the first of its kind at the beginning of 1983, demonstrates the constant vitality of the Entente Council since its creation in 1959. It is also an expression of the deep faith which the heads of state of the Entente Council have in African unity, solidarity, and peace.

At the end of their meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of fraternity and friendship that has always characterized their meetings, the heads of state of Ivory Coast, Benin, Niger, and Upper Volta expressed to General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic of Togo, and to the Togolese Government and people their sincere gratitude for the welcome marked by brotherly warmth and authentically African hospitality granted them during their stay in Togo.

The heads of state were accompanied by the following officials: Mathieu Ekra, minister of state, Ivory Coast; Tiamou Adjibade, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Girigissou Gado, minister of public works, construction and housing, Benin; Daouda Diallo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Moumouni Yacouba, minister of public works and town planning, Niger; Michel Kafando, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Harouna Tarnagda, minister of interior and security, Mrs Pauline Kambou, minister of social affairs and women's affairs, and Lieutenant Soumaila Sare, member of the People's Salvation Council, Upper Volta; Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle, member of the RPT Political Bureau and minister of interior, Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, member of the RPT Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Hodabalo Bodjona, member of the RPT Central Committee and minister of public health and social affairs, Koffi Walla, member of the RPT Central Committee and minister of planning and administrative reform, and Ayissah Agbetra, member of the RPT Central Committee and minister of third and fourth degree education and scientific research, Togo.

Issued in Kara, 9 February, 1983.

[Signed] People's Republic of Benin: His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou, president of the republic.

Republic of Ivory Coast: His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the republic.

Republic of Togo: His Excellency Gen Gnassignbe Eyadema, president of the republic.

Republic of Niger: His Excellency Gen Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state.

Republic of Upper Volta: His Excellency Maj Dr Jean-Baptist Ouedraogo, chairman of the People's Salvation Council and head of state.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

FINANCE MINISTER RECEIVES PRC, USSR ENVOYS

AB080957 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Andres Nko Ivasa, minister of economy and finance, yesterday granted an audience to the PRC ambassador in Malabo, Lin Song. During the audience, the economy minister discussed with the Chinese diplomat financial and economic relations between Equatorial Guinea and the PRC. Later, the economy minister recieved the USSR ambassador in Malabo, Boris Krasnikov, with whom he discussed economic and financial matters.

CAMEROON

BIYA TO VISIT FRANCE, TALK WITH MITTERRAND

AB091452 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] President Paul Biya begins a 2-day official working visit to France on 15 February at the invitation of his French counterpart, Francois Mitterrand. A press release from the Presidency of the republic says the two leaders will hold talks on 15 February and later meet for lunch. During his stay in Paris, President Paul Biya will grant audience to many French personalities including the minister of state, the minister of external trade, the minister of defense, the minister delegate in charge of cooperation and development, and the minister of economic affairs and finance.

CHAD

MISKINE ON LIBYAN PLANS FOR MILITARY ATTACK

AB100857 Paris AFP in French 0748 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 10 Feb (AFP) -- Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine has described Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's recent statement that Libya has no intention of attacking Chad as a "maneuver designed to hide Libya's preparations for a military attack on Chad." Speaking to the press on Wednesday about the Libyan head of state's statement, Mr Miskine affirmed that the Chadian Government has "irrefutable proof" of Libya's preparations to attack Chad. The Chadian miniter stated in particular that the Libyan regime has recruited, apart from Chadians living in Libya, 500 mercenaries who are all former Katengan (Zaire) gendarmes and eight of whom are pilots in charge of the liaison between the Libyan town of Sehba and the Chadian localities of Aouzou and Bardai.

According to the Chadian leader, the contingent also includes 300 CAR nationals belonging to Dr Idi Lala's opposition movement. Libya has also mobilized 66 aircraft and a number of tanks for the attack, explained Mr Miskine, who added that Libyan reconnaissance planes make "daily" flights over Chadian territory. "As one can see, it is a gigantic war machine that Libya has set up against Chad," the Chadian foreign minister affirmed. He was of the opinion that the Libyan head of state's "seemingly reassuring" statement was aimed at distracting public opinion and concealing the Libyan Government's "Machiavellian designs." Idriss Miskine appealed to the Chadian people to remain vigilant" in the face of "Libya's plots" against Chad. "The Chadian Government resulting from the victory of 7 June -- date of the FAN's entry into Ndjamena -- cannot under any circumstances bargain over a single inch of the national territory," stated the Chadian minister, who was referring to Libya's occupation of the Aouzou strip in northern Chad.

EEC TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SADCC COUNTRIES

AB102142 Luanda ANGOP in French 1958 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Maseru, 10 Feb (ANGOP) -- In an interview with the Angolan newspaper JORNAL DE ANGOLA following a meeting in Maseru, Edgar Pisani, European commissioner for development, said that the EEC has the intention of establishing economic and commercial relations with Angola, Mozambique, and other countries belonging to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, at a time when South Africa is making the economic balance of the respective countries in the region difficult. All this, he continued, must be situated within positive political logic since the Pretoria regime uses the underdevelopment in these countries to bully the nine independent SADCC countries.

On the other hand, Edgar Pisani pointed out that relations between the SADCC and the EEC must be approached from different angles. "First there is a central angle relative to development in which the EEC would like to play a substantial role, which explains why the EEC is always involved in all actions."

"There is also another aspect which is subtle and interesting depending on one's opinion. It is that the SADCC and the EEC are regional organizations and we generally prefer to favor regional organizations in Africa."

Asked about what the EEC envisages for the situation affecting Angola and Mozambique, which are destabilized by South Africa because of their internal ideological leanings and because of which the North American administration and the Pretoria regime have launched the so-called "linkage" policy which connects the Namibian issue with the Cuban presence in Angola, Edgar Pisani said: "I think that if we were to look at the problem in the perspective of its true history, it would be possible to find an easy solution. It is not because Angola attacked South Africa that the Cubans went to Angola. On the contrary, it was because South Africa attacked Angola. As a result of these attacks external aid had to be sought."

With regard to the type of cooperation which could exist between the EEC and the Portugese-speaking African countries following the admission of Portugal into the EEC, the European commissioner for development pointed out that "there is no link between the new relations existing between Angola and Mozambique on one hand and between the EEC and the entry of Portugal into the EEC on the other."

Meanwhile, we note that while Portugal has various links with Angola, Mozambique and other Portuguese-speaking African countries, these are linguistic and economic as well as political ties. These ties could be added to the other ties that the EEC maintains. "The Portuguese Government will have an extra advantage in Angola and Mozambique because it is the Angolan and Mozambican Governments which will always have power over these initiatives," he concluded.

RSA-ANGOLA TALKS TO RESUME SOON IN CAPE VERDE

AB101101 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT 10 Feb 83

[By Kader Diop]

[Text] Praia, Cape Verde, Feb 10 (AFP) -- South Africa and Angola are to resume direct negotiations here in the near future, possibly within the next few days, according to diplomatic sources in the Cape Verde capital.

Government officials were maintaining their usual silence on anything to do with the proposed talks, which began with a first, one-day, meeting here in December.

The diplomatic sources said that the next few days were the only ones available for such a meeting because of the tight official schedule. They noted that Cape Verde's president, Aristides Pereira, and Foreign Minister Silvino da Luz, who got the first round of talks on the road, would be away during the second half of the month, first in Kuwait and later at the nonaligned summit conference in New Delhi.

The South African and Angolan Governments are also keeping tight-lipped about the progress toward a new round of negotiations, but officials here do at least admit that a new meeting would be held either here or on the island of Sal, 250 km (160 miles) to the north.

SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO REPORTS CLASH IN RSA, THREE KILLED

EA101138 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Several enemy troops were killed and many others severely wounded after a long, fierce gun battle with three heroic combatants of our peoples army, Umkhonto We Sizwe, in the northern Natal town of Paulpietersburg on Tuesday morning. Our combatants preferred death to be captured alive by these desperate forces of darkness and face false charges.

Reports from the area said that the massive search conducted by a large contingent of the enemy's so-called task force -- with helicopters and other military equipment -- started on Sunday after the three Luthuli soldiers were spotted. Yesterday morning, the troops of the fascist regime tried to corner our comrades in their base and called on them to surrender. But in the true tradition of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the tradition of Silverton (?Wonderboom) and (?Voortrekkerhoogte), the people's heroes refused to surrender and fought fearlessly to the last minute. The three heroes died as they lived -- fighting and sacrificing everything for the liberation of our motherland and true democracy in our country, South Africa.

The fascists so-called commissar of police, (Mike Hallenie), admitted that the fierce battle did take place and that weapons and mines were found at the scene, which is another proof that our cadres are operating from their bases inside the country itself.

ZIMBABWE

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO RELEASE S. AFRICAN SPIES

CA110936 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] The government has on three occasions rejected overtures from the Pretoria regime to release South African spies Philip Hartleybury and Colin Evans. The two men were arrested on charges of spying and being found in possession of arms of war. The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Munangagwa, told the National Assembly that in the first instance the Pretoria regime asked for the release of the spies in exchange of 115 Angolan prisoners. In the second offer, South Africa said it was prepared to release the Angolan prisoners together with one Russian it was holding. The third approach was made after the spies were acquitted by the high court and South Africa approached a third power to secure the release of the spies. Comrade Munangagwa said despite the high court decision to acquit the spies, the government will continue to detain them if it considers them a threat to peace and security to our country.